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AUG 27 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554
In the matter of)
)

Amendment of Section 97 of the)
Commission's Rules to Relax)
Restrictions on the Scope of)
Permissible Communications)
in the Amateur Service.)

PR Docket No. 92-136
AUG 26 1992

RM-7849
RM-7895
RM-7896

FCC MAIL BRANCH

21 August 1992

Dear Federal Communications Commissioner:

I am OPPOSED to PR Docket No. 92-136, lessen restrictions on permissible communications as stated in the Proposed Rulemaking for the following SINGLE SPECIFIC REASON:

The sentence for proposed Section 97.113, subsection (e) states: "Prior approval for such retransmission must be obtained from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration".

The problem is multifold:

First, Where does the individual obtain this permission for retransmission? No specific address is given. I realize that addresses change and this must be open for changes in the NASA organization. but does the individual contact Washington, the Kennedy Space Center, Vandenberg or where?

Second, To whom does the individual inquiry for permission? The proposed rule failed to mention a specific title or organization head. There must be a specific person that you have had in mind when preparing this. Who is it?

Third, In what form must the permission be obtained? Must it be written, oral or faxed? An incomplete definition of the form of permission transmittal is omitted.

Fourth, Does permission have to be requested for each specific space mission? The proposed rules do not address this area.

Fifth, all equipment i.e. antennas, receivers, etc. controlled by NASA are owned by the Public. The contents of transmission are likewise in the Public Domain. therefore a request for retransmission is fundamentally not even needed.

Six, If any space transmission is not to be retransmitted from space, those transmissions are currently encrypted and decrypted both going to and from the Space Shuttle. the contents of these communications both digital and audio, both military and

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corporate, are already encoded. Therefore, not violations of "restricted data" would be inadvertantly retransmitted by an amateur Radio Station. Safeguards are already in-place.

And finally, You've dealt with other bureaucratic organizations in Government both professionally and in your personal life. By the time permission is obtained, if ever, the space mission will have been completed.

Background: I was personally instumental in persueding the Federal Communications Commission in developing and granting the Special Temporary Authorizations for the NASA Space Shuttle program. My efforts in this arena were through former Senator Barry Goldwater and his Washington staff. I had personally spent many hours of preparing written documents and considerable personal costs in long-distance telephone calls, etc. to initiate the STA.

On a personal note, I have worked closely with NASA personnel at the Kennedy Space Center for 15 years. I have developed a close working personal relationship, having worked on the Space Shuttle Program, it would be taking a "One giant step backward for Amateur Radio; one small step forward in the Part 97 rules".


Summary: Overall I firmly believe there is a definite need to specify the permissable communications which have resided in a "grey area". Many times Amateur radio Operators are inhibited from supporting a Public Service activity because of an incomplete Part 97 concurrence. Traditionally, amateur radio operators have been reluctant to serve in some areas of the Public Interest owing to the remotest possibility of erring outside Part 97 specificity.

Recommendation: Please omit: "Prior approval for such retransmission must be obtained from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration".

Credentials:

I am an Extra Class licensed Radio Amateur and have been licensed for 38 years. I was one of the first Volunteer Examineers accredited by a national Amateur Radio organization. I keep current with the pulse of amateur radio throughy daily use of morse code, single sideband, frequency modulation and packet communications.

With kindest regards,


Carl Zelich, AA4MI